



Islamic Folklore
The Biography of Prophet Idris AS
English Edition

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by
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This is a work of fiction. Similarities to real people, places, or events are entirely coincidental.

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Prologue



Allah SWT (God) says in The Holy Qur'an:

“And mention Prophet Idris AS in the Book, surely he was a truthful man, a Prophet. And We raised him high in heaven.

(From The Holy Quran 19:57–58)

Prophet Idris AS, known as Enoch in the Judeo-Christian tradition, occupies a significant and unique place in Islamic history and theology. His story is woven into the fabric of Islamic teachings, with references found in The Holy Quran and the Hadith literature.

Idris is recognized as a great-grandson of Prophet Adam AS, tracing his lineage through Prophet Seth AS. In Islamic belief, he was chosen by Allah SWT The Creator of Earth & Heavens to guide his people, who were veering towards polytheism. Gifted with wisdom and righteousness, Prophet Idris AS (Enoch) diligently conveyed the message of monotheism and the worship of the one true God.

One of the striking aspects of Idris' story in Islam is his remarkable lifespan. According to The Holy Quran (Surah Maryam, 19:57), he lived for 960 years. This extended life span provided him with a unique opportunity to spread his divine teachings across numerous generations. It is said that he used this time to patiently and

consistently call his people to the worship of Allah SWT and the abandonment of idolatry.

The Holy Quran also narrates the special honor bestowed upon Prophet Idris AS— his ascension to The sky Heavens (Jannah Paradise). This event sets him apart from many other prophets. Islamic tradition holds that Allah SWt elevated Prophet Idris AS to the heavens without experiencing death. This ascension signifies his elevated spiritual status and his unwavering devotion to God.

Prophet Idris AS legacy in Islamic tradition is multifaceted. He is remembered as a devoted prophet who remained steadfast in his mission, regardless of the challenges he faced. His emphasis on monotheism, righteousness, and ethical conduct left an indelible mark on his community.

While there are parallels between Idris' story in Islam and other religious traditions, Islamic sources, including The Holy Quran and the Hadith, provide distinct insights into his life and significance. His role as a prophet and teacher, his exemplary character, and his ascension to the heavens all contribute to the tapestry of Islamic belief and spirituality.

In summary, the history of Prophet Idris AS (Enoch) in Islam revolves around his role as a divinely chosen guide and teacher. His unwavering dedication to monotheism, his long life, and his ascension to the heavens showcase his exceptional status as a revered figure in Islamic tradition. His story continues to inspire believers to uphold the principles of faith, righteousness, and devotion.

Chapter 1



From authentic books, it is narrated from Wahab that Prophet Idris AS (Enoch) was a well-built man with a broad chest. He had less hair on his body and more on his head. His one ear was bigger than the other. He had scanty hair on his chest and spoke in a low voice.

While walking his feet used to come close to one another. He is known as Idris because he used to teach about the magnanimity of Allah SWT and the excellence of Islam. He pondered about the majesty, grandiose and glory of Allah SWT that the sky, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars and clouds and all other creations have a creator who by His power has created them, formed and arranged them.

Guilty is the one who does not worship Him Who has the right to be worshipped. With this in mind, he formed a private conference among his nation and advised, them remember Allah SWT. He also warned them about His chastisement. He invited them towards His worship. Due to this propagation, the people started to join him.

At first, they numbered seven, then reached seventy, then seven hundred, then one thousand people became his followers. Then he

(Idris) said to them, “Let us select a hundred pious people.” So from the one thousand, seventy were selected, then from the seventy, ten were selected and from the ten, seven people were finally chosen.

Then he said, “Come, let the seven of us pray and all the others shall say ‘Amen’. Perhaps our Creator may guide us due to our prayers.” They placed their hands on the earth and prayed, but nothing happened. They raised their hands towards the sky and prayed. Allah SWT (God) revealed upon Prophet Idris AS and selected him as His Messenger.

Chapter 2



Allah SWT guided him and his companions towards His Worship. So they were involved in the worship of Allah SWT and did not associate with anyone so much so that Allah SWT raised Prophet Idris AS to heaven. Except for a few, most of those who had believed in Prophet Idris AS deviated and there were disputes and differences among them. Prophet Nuh AS (Noah) was appointed over them.

According to a hadith from Abu-Dharr, it is narrated that thirty books were revealed on Prophet Idris AS and other traditions state that he was the first person who had initiated writing with a pen. He also used to stitch clothes and wear them. Before this, the people used to cover their private parts with leaves. Idris used to stitch clothes and worship and praise Allah SWT.

From reliable traditions it is narrated from Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq that Masjid as-Sahlah was the residence of Prophet Idris AS where he used to stitch clothes and worship Allah SWT. God fulfills the desire of one who supplicates at that place and will elevate his status on the Day of Judgment as it was the place of Idris.

It is narrated from Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq that at the early part of the Prophethood of Idris there lived a tyrant king. Once when he went out for a stroll and passed through a land rich in greenery, which

belonged to a pious believer. This believer had abandoned all false religions and was disgusted with transgressors. He kept aloof from them. The king liked that piece of land for himself, so he inquired from his vizier regarding its owner it.

Chapter 3



The vizier replied that it belonged to a certain believer from their kingdom. The king called the believer and said that he wanted his piece of land. The believer replied that his family needed the plot of land more than the king. The king asked him to sell it to him but the believer was adamant which the angry and his facial expressions changed. In that very condition, he returned to his kingdom.

The king had a wife from Iraq (Barak) whom he loved very much and whom he consulted frequently. On reaching his kingdom, he called her. She saw that he was in a very angry mood and inquired as to what had aroused his temper. He narrated the incident of the believer's land.

She replied that only he gets angry who does not have the power to take revenge. "If you don't want to execute or behead him without any excuse then I will show you a way to kill him by which the land will be yours and even his family members will not blame you for his death." The king asked her what plan she had in mind. She replied that one of her group (from Azarak) will be sent to arrest him and he would testify that the person has turned away from the king's religion.

"In this way you can kill him and seize his land." The king agreed

to her suggestion. So groups from Iraq, who followed the queen's religion and who considered lawful the slaughtering of a believer were called. They testified before the king that that man had turned away from the state religion. On hearing this, the king ordered his execution and captured his land.

Chapter 4



Allah SWT was angry at the believer's murder and He revealed to Prophet Idris AS to go and tell the tyrant ruler, "Was he not content with killing the believer that he also usurped his land impoverishing family? I swear by My majesty and power that I will avenge his murder in the Resurrection Day and in this world, I will abolish your rulership. I will change your honor and status into humiliation and disgrace. And dogs will devour the flesh of your wife. Has My tolerance and endurance, which was supposed test you, made you arrogant?"

Prophet Idris AS addressed the king, "O tyrant ruler! I am the messenger of Allah!" and then narrated to him the divine message. The king ordered Idris to leave his court and warned him that he would not be able to save himself. The king told his wife about his discussion with Idris. She said, "Do not to fear the Messengership of Idris's God. I will send someone to kill Idris so that the messengership of his God is nullified." The king agreed to her suggestion and gave his consent.

Among the friends of Prophet Idris AS there were some who used to attend the royal court. Prophet Idris AS had informed them of the revelation to him and of his conveying the message to the king.

They were fearful that Idris would be killed. The queen sent forty Iraqi men to kill Prophet Idris AS. They reached the place where Prophet Idris AS used to sit with his companions but did not find him there, so they returned. When his friends saw that they had come to kill Prophet Idris AS they dispersed and then met Prophet Idris AS. They informed him that forty men had come to kill him, so he should be cautious.

Chapter 5



Prophet Idris AS prayed to Allah SWT (God), “O my Sustainer! You sent me to that tyrant to deliver Your message to him. He threatened me and is after my blood. Allah SWT revealed to Prophet Idris AS to keep away from the king. “I swear by My honor that I will enforce My law on him and prove your word and My messengership to be true.” Prophet Idris AS said, “O my Nourisher, I have a wish.” Allah SWT said, “Ask me and I shall fulfill it.” Idris said, “Till such time as I allow, there should be no rains.”

Allah SWT said, “The country will be ruined and people will starve to death.” Prophet Idris AS said, “Whatever may happen, this is my wish.” Allah SWT replied, “All right. I accept it, and until the time you pray I will not send rain. I am the most truthful to My promise.” Hearing this Prophet Idris AS briefed his companions about his discussion with Allah SWT and said, “O my friends leave this country and go to some other place.” There were twenty of them and they spread out to different areas. The people came to know about the prayers of Prophet Idris AS.

Prophet Idris AS himself sought refuge on a hill. Allah SWT appointed an Angel who used to bring food to him every evening. Prophet Idris AS fasted during the day and broke his fast in the

evening when the Angel (Malaikah) brought food from heaven to him. Allah SWT destroyed the kingdom of the tyrant king. The king was killed, his kingdom destroyed and the flesh of his wife was eaten by dogs due to their transgression against a believer.

Chapter 6



Another unjust tyrant oppressor occupied the throne. Twenty years passed without a drop of rain. The people were in severe hardships and difficulties and their condition deteriorated. They used to bring food supplies from far off countries. When their condition turned from bad to worse they discussed among themselves that this calamity was due to the prayer of Prophet Idris AS who had asked Allah SWT that until the time he allowed there should be no rains.

“We are not aware of his whereabouts because he has concealed himself from us.” They decided that as Allah SWT is more Merciful than Prophet Idris AS prays to Him and repents so that it rains on their land and in the neighboring areas. So they wore coarse clothes and applied mud on their head and standing on the earth they wailed, cried and repented to Allah SWT .

Allah SWT felt pity on them and revealed upon Prophet Idris AS that, “Your people are repenting, wailing and weeping and I am God the Beneficent and Merciful and the one who accepts repentance and forgive sins. I have mercy on them and wish to fulfill their desire for rains. I have no obstruction save that you had requested me not to send rains until you pray for it. Therefore, O Prophet Idris AS you pray to me that I may send rains for them.”

Prophet Idris AS said, “O my Nourisher, I will not pray for rains.” Allah SWT once again revealed on Prophet Idris AS to pray for rains. Prophet Idris AS again refused. So Allah SWT recalled the Angel (Malaikah) who was appointed to bring food for Prophet Idris AS. When it was evening and the food did not arrive Prophet Idris AS became restless but waited patiently. The second day when again the food did not arrive his restlessness increased.

Chapter 7



On the third day he lost his patience and appealed to Allah SWT, “O my Nourisher before taking my soul, you have discontinued my sustenance?” Allah revealed, “O Idris! You are complaining in three days but you are not concerned about your nation that has suffered for twenty years? I informed you that they were suffering, and I was merciful on them and I wished that you pray for rain so that I send rain. But you abstained from it, so I wanted you to know what hunger is and you lost your patience and complained. Now come out of the cave and search for your sustenance. I have left you on your own.”

Hearing this Prophet Idris AS came down from the hill to procure food. When he came near the town he saw smoke coming out from a house. An old lady had made two chapattis and was roasting them on the fire. He requested her to give him something to eat, as he was very weak and restless due to hunger. She said that due to the curse of Prophet Idris AS, Allah SWT has not given left them anything that they can feed anyone, and swore that except for the two chapattis there was nothing in the house.

She told him to leave the city and go somewhere else for food.

Prophet Idris AS requested that at least give me one chapatti so that I can save my life and can start walking. She said I have only these two chapattis, one for me and the other for my son. If I give you my chapatti, I will die and if I give you my child's he would die. I don't have anything else to give you."

Idris said, "Your son is young, half a chapatti will suffice him and half will help me to live." The woman ate her share and distributed the other one between Prophet Idris AS and her son. When the child saw Prophet Idris AS eating from his share of the chapatti, he started crying and was so disturbed that he died. The woman shouted out, "Stranger! you have killed my child." Prophet Idris AS said, "Do not fear, by the order of Allah SWT I will make him alive."

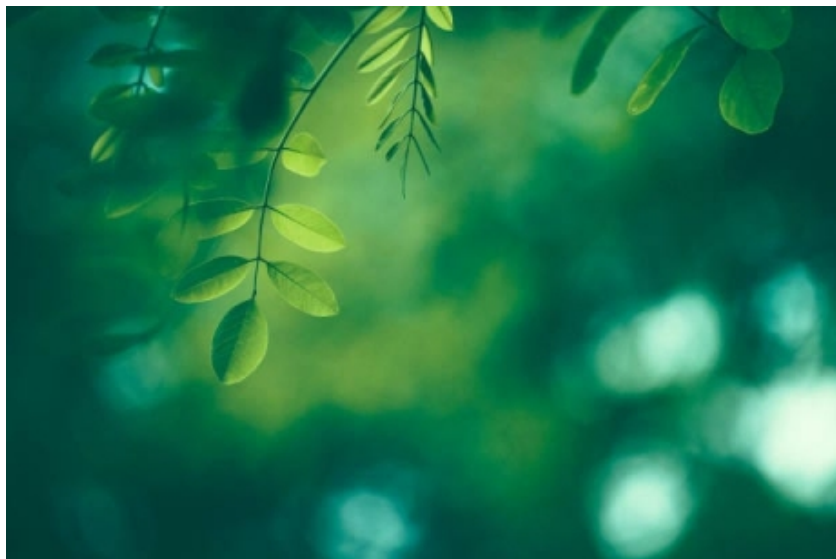
Saying this he kept his hands on the shoulder of the boy and said, "O soul who has left the body of this child, by the order of Allah SWT return to his body again. I am Prophet Idris AS the Messenger of Allah SWT." The boy was alive once more. The woman saw this and said, "I witness that you are Prophet Idris AS." And she ran out shouting, "O people! Congratulations to you and glad tidings that we will be relieved of our troubles and sufferings as Idris has returned to our city." Prophet Idris AS came out and reached the palace of the first tyrant king, which was on a hill. A group of people came and complained, "O Prophet Idris AS! In these twenty years, you did not have any mercy on us. We were involved in such difficulties and miseries and many of us starved to death.

We request you now pray to Allah SWT for rains." Prophet Idris AS replied, "I will not pray until the time this tyrant king and the people of your city come to me walking, barefoot and request me." When the king heard this, he sent forty people to kill Prophet Idris AS. When they reached near Prophet Idris AS, he cursed them and they all died. When the king heard this, he sent 500 people to arrest him. They came to Prophet Idris AS and said, "We have come to take you to the king." Prophet Idris AS replied, "Look at these forty men (who had come before you to take me); see how they are lying dead. If you all do not go back you too will meet the same fate."

They said, "O Prophet Idris AS, you have involved us in hunger for twenty years and now you are cursing us. Is there no mercy in your

heart?” Prophet Idris AS replied, “I will not go to that tyrant nor will I pray for the rains until that tyrant and all the people don’t come to me walking barefoot.” Hearing this, the people returned to the king and repeated the statement of Prophet Idris AS. So the King together with the people came to Prophet Idris AS and all stood helplessly before him and requested him to pray for rain. Prophet Idris AS prayed. That very same moment clouds gathered in the sky, there was thunder and lightening and it started raining. It rained so much that they feared they would drown. Finally, they all returned home.

Chapter 8



It is related from Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq that an angel was under the wrath of Allah SWT and his hair and wings were cut off and he was lying on an island for a long time. When Allah SWT appointed Prophet Idris AS, that angel (malaikah) came to Prophet Idris AS and requested him to pray from him so that Allah SWT may be pleased with him and return his hair and wings. Prophet Idris AS prayed for him and Allah SWT (God) restored his hair and wings. The angel asked Prophet Idris AS, "Do you wish anything from me?" Idris said, "Yes, I wish that you take me up to the heavens so that I can see Izrail The Angel of Death.

Because thinking of him I cannot live without fear. The angel took the Prophet to the 4th heaven on his wings. There he saw the Angel of Death sitting, moving his head in a peculiar way. Prophet Idris AS saluted him and asked him the cause for turning his head in that manner. The Angel of Death replied, "Allah SWT has ordered me to take your soul between the 4th and 5th heaven." Prophet Idris AS pleaded, "O Allah SWT! How is it possible when the distance up to the 4th heaven is 500 years of travel and the distance between the 4th and 5th heaven is another 500 years of travel? "This is the distance between one heaven and another." saying this, the Angel

of Death took away his soul. These are the words of Allah SWT, which means

“And we raised him high in heaven” (From The Holy Quran 19:57)

Imam as-Sadiq narrates that he is known as Idris because he used to give excessive teachings from the book of Allah SWT.

Chapter 9



In a tradition from Amir al-Mu'minin it is narrated that after the death of Prophet Idris AS, Allah SWT raised him to an elevated position and sustained him with the bounties of heaven paradise.

In a reliable tradition, it is narrated by Imam Muhammad al-Baqir that the Holy Prophet said, "An angel was very near to Allah SWT. Due to some laxity or laziness, Allah SWT sent him down to earth. He came to Prophet Idris AS and requested him to intercede with Allah SWT on his behalf. Prophet Idris AS agreed and fasted for three days without breaking the fast and spent three nights in worship due to which he was exhausted and weak. Then he prayed to Allah SWT and interceded for this angel.

Allah SWT gave the permission to that angel to ascend to the skies. At that time that angel said, "I wish that you would ask from me something in return." Prophet Idris AS said, "I wish to meet the Angel of Death so that I can befriend him, because due to his remembrance no bounty is worth rejoicing." The angel seated him on his wings and took him up to the 1st heaven. Then he took him

higher until they reached between the 4th and the 5th skies where he met the Angel of Death.

They saw the Angel of Death weeping and asked him the reason of his grief. The Angel of Death replied, "Just now when I was beneath the skies there was an order from Allah SWT to take the soul of Prophet Idris AS between the 4th and 5th heaven." When Prophet Idris AS heard this he fell down from the wings of the angel and immediately his soul was taken away. As Allah SWT says, "We have mentioned in the Book."

In another tradition it is narrated from 'Abdullah Ibn Suhas that Prophet Idris AS used to travel from city to city and used to fast. When it was night, he used to halt and he was provided his sustenance at that very place. The angels used to take his good deeds to the skies like other people's deeds. The Angel of Death Izrail wished to meet Prophet Idris AS and after getting permission he came to Prophet Idris AS and said, "I wish to be in your company." Prophet Idris AS agreed.

They became friends and were together for a long time. He would fast during the day and at night when he used to get sustenance, he used to eat. He used to invite the Angel of Death to eat with him but he said, "I don't require food," and remained busy in prayers. Prophet Idris AS used to sleep due to fatigue but the Angel of Death was neither lazy nor tired; neither did he sleep. In this manner some days passed until one day they passed by an orchard. The grapes were ripe. The Angel of Death asked Prophet Idris AS whether they should take some of the grapes and break their fast.

Chapter 10



Prophet Idris AS replied, “Glory be to Allah SWT, I invited you to eat from my share of sustenance and you refused. You are now inviting me to eat other people’s grapes without their permission. You have recompensed my companionship in a nice way. Tell me who are you?”

He replied, “I am the Angel of Death.” Prophet Idris AS said, “I have one request from you.” The Angel of Death asked him what it was. Prophet Idris AS said, “I wish you to take me up to the skies.” The Angel of Death took Allah SWT permission, seated him on his wings and took him up to the skies.

Prophet Idris AS said, “I have one more desire. I have heard that death is very difficult so I wish to taste it so as to verify that it tastes as I have heard it.” The Angel of Death took Allah’s permission. Then he held the breath of Idris for sometime then removed his hand and asked Prophet Idris AS how found it?

Prophet Idris AS replied, “Very severe, more severe than what I have heard.” Then Prophet Idris AS said, “I have one more desire. I want to see the fire of Hell.” The Angel of Death ordered the keeper

of Hell to open the door.

When Prophet Idris AS saw it, he swooned. When he regained consciousness he said, "I have one more request. I would like to see heaven paradise." The Angel of Death asked the permission of the keepers of Heaven Paradise and Prophet Idris AS entered it and said, "O Angel of Death now I will not come out of it.

Allah SWT has said every soul will have to taste death which I have tasted and Allah SWT has said there is no one from you who will not come near Hell and I have seen it and about the heavens paradise it is said that the people of heavens paradise will remain in it forever.

Author Bio



We will remove whatever bitterness they had in their hearts. Rivers will flow under their feet.

And they will say, "Praise be to Allah SWT (God) for guiding us to this. We would have never been guided if Allah SWT (God) had not guided us.

The messengers of our Lord had certainly come with the truth. It will be announced to them,

"This is Jannah Paradise awarded to you for what you used to do."

(From The Noble Quran Surah Ar-Ra'd)